



Better Block Hawaii
Testimony Bill 8 (2016) CD1
March 03, 2016

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Meeting Date: 03/03/2016
Council/PH Committee: Transportation
Agenda Item: 1 (Bill 8)
Position: OPPOSE
Representing: Organization – Better Block Hawaii

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Better Block Hawaii is a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to improving urban livability, services, infrastructure throughout Hawaii's urban communities.

We recognize that everyone should have greater ability to realize positive improvements in their own neighborhoods. We trust that enabling increased participation will result in creative and context-appropriate solutions that will be more widely adopted. We value collaboration from project initiation through implementation.

Better Block Hawaii **OPPOSES Bill 8**, but supports the intent of bettering the public process in the implementation of Complete Streets.

In 2006, the voters of the City and County of Honolulu approved, with 72 percent of votes YES, the City Charter amendment requiring that it "shall be one of the priorities of the department of transportation services to make Honolulu a pedestrian and bicycle-friendly city." Honolulu's Complete Streets Ordinance (Bill 26) enables the city to identify opportunities to accommodate all users of the road and maximize transportation dollars within existing projects by embedding awareness into the planning and design process for all projects. It requires that the four city departments—DTS, DDC, DFM, DPP—that work with the county's roadways use an interdepartmental checklist to assess opportunities to improve travel for all users of the road in conjunction with new development, reconstruction, and maintenance projects.

Bill 8 would require that the Council approve every individual Complete Streets project—from sidewalks to curb ramps. This would separate out transportation features for non-drivers from the rest of a project and treat them as standalone projects requiring undue special scrutiny and holding them to a different public input process than other transportation projects, impeding needed improvements.

Better Block Hawaii has joined the Complete Streets Coalition in expressing our concerns about Bill 8. We are thankful to have begun constructive conversations with the Council and look forward to working with Council towards successful Complete Streets implementation.

Thank you very much for considering the comments of the Better Block Hawaii.

Thank you for your leadership.